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INSECT, PLANT DISEASE, & WEED SCIENCE NEWS [No. 88-14] [July 1, 1988]

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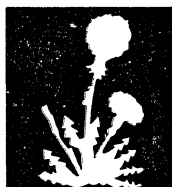
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INSECT PLANT DISEASE WEED SCIENCE

NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRONOMY (WEED SCIENCE) UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN,
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No. 88-14
July 1, 1988

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- Wiper and Bean Bar Applications
- Lawn Care Under Stress Conditions
- Dry Weather and Weed Control

Wiper and Bean Bar Applications

Wiper applicators are popular for controlling tall growing weeds in shorter crops. The weeds should be at least 10" taller than the crop. Roundup is the herbicide of choice for wiper applications in sorghum and soybeans. A concentration of 25% Roundup in water is used for control of broadleaf and grass weeds. Shattercane and volunteer corn are very susceptible to Roundup. Roundup concentrations of 20% work well on these plants.

Roundup is less effective against broadleaf weeds than grasses. Sunflower and pigweed control is usually good but velvetleaf is not readily controlled. Some have suggested adding 2,4-D to Roundup for improved broadleaf control with wiper applicators. Our experience is that the addition of 2,4-D reduces control compared to Roundup alone. Dense stands of weeds make good herbicide coverage difficult with a wiper. Two passes, in opposite directions, are required for good control.

Bean Bars have become quite popular for controlling weed escapes in soybeans. Weeds need not be taller than the crop since they are individually sprayed with hand held spray nozzles. Roundup is registered at a 5% concentration for straight stream nozzles and a 2% concentration in spreading nozzles. For shattercane and volunteer corn these concentrations can be reduced somewhat.

Some crop damage occurs with Roundup in a bean bar since spray droplets contact the crop. Growers have searched for treatments that are safer to soybeans than Roundup. Amiben has been used by some individuals in an effort to control velvetleaf in soybeans with minimum crop injury. A common mixture has been 6 quarts of Amiben plus 2 ounces of Butyrac 200 in 25 gallons of water. This treatment is not registered for use in a bean bar. However, Amiben is registered postemergence in soybeans up to 33 days after planting. Basagran, Blazer, Fusilade and Poast have been used in bean bars to provide weed control with less crop injury than Roundup. These herbicides are generally mixed at 1 quart in 25 gallons of water plus 1 quart oil concentrate or with Blazer 1 pint surfactant.



Lawn Care Under Stress Conditions

The heat and drought of the past few weeks has put stress on all plant materials. The best weed prevention in your lawn is to follow cultural practices that keep the lawn thick and healthy. Water plays a very important part in growth and cooling of the plant through transpiration. To promote deeper rooting, it is best to water deeply and infrequently. Early morning is the best time to water since the air is relatively calm and evaporative loss is lower. Under extreme drought conditions, it may be necessary to let the turfgrass plant go into a temporary state of dormancy. If you've been irrigating regularly, the plant must go through a gradual hardening-off period with judicious fertilization (use of slow release fertilizers if required), more frequent mowing at a greater mowing height, and a reduction in water applied. **Do not** stop irrigating the plant all at once, or you may cause extensive plant and root damage. The plant's system must have time to slow down and convert energy that was used for growth into carbohydrate reserves to use while it is in a dormant state.

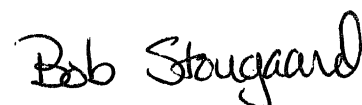
Even by following these procedures, with extended heat and drought conditions, the turfgrass stand can become more thin. This can be corrected in late summer to early fall by core aeration with overseeding, or slit-seeding of the area. A late fall fertilization with a complete fertilizer will also help strengthen the newly seeded and existing plants.


Dry Weather and Weed Control

Crops as well as weeds are under stress in dry conditions. Cultivation or the application of an herbicide can add to the stress on the crop. With low weed numbers and stressed crops it may be better to tolerate a few weeds or remove them by hand rather than cultivating or spraying.

Dry weather reduces the effectiveness of postemergence herbicides. The adverse conditions can be offset to some extent, but not completely, by switching additives. An example would be using crop oil concentrate rather than X-77 with the soybean herbicide Classic. Usually an increase in crop injury results when crop oil concentrate is used rather than X-77.


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